Number 16

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

April 2002

# Nogales Identifies Expedition's First Campsite

# Locals work to protect historic wetlands along the Anza Trail

From El Síbuta we set forth at eight in the morning and at three in the afternoon halted at the place called Las Lagunas ...On the left run some low hills, and behind them there is a rather high and rough sierra which begins at the pueblo of Santa Maria Madalena and runs to Aribaca, Arizona...All these lands are very abundant in pasturage, and in them the San Yanacio River rises.

Father Pedro Font – October 14, 1775

Father Pedro Font tells the reader nothing about fiestas, fandangos, or fireworks when he arrived at *Las Lagunas* in Nogales on a warm fall afternoon in 1775. Could he have ever imagined that one day, centuries later, historians would use his diary and its description to help commemorate October 14 as the day the Anza expedition forever linked what would one day become the United States and Mexico?

That afternoon over two centuries ago, fearing attacks from Apaches to the north, the expedition made camp in the most suitable site they could find. They needed water for themselves and for their animals and the marsh at *Las Lagunas* (which translates as the pools or lagoons) offered that.

A tourist visiting the Palo Duro Golf Course in Nogales today probably would not realize that he is passing through an area with a history that goes back centuries. Driving from the interstate to the country club, a driver goes through seemingly incongruous wetlands in one of the hottest areas along the border. For millennia, Las Lagunas marsh sus-

tained Native Indians living along its banks and surrounding hills. Two centuries ago, it helped quench the thirst of the men and women on the Anza Expedition. Today, it sustains aquatic animals and water birds in a land more and more devoid of traditional water sources.

(Continued on next page, Nogales)



Las Lagunas marks the spot in Nogales, Arizona, where the Anza Expedition camped for the first time in what would become the United States. Today, the marsh is an oasis for migratory birds, wildlife, and historians.



Visitors touring hospital ruins in Arizpe.

### Anza World Conference Returns to Mexico

The final resting spot for Juan Bautista de Anza will again serve host for this year's Seventh Annual Anza World Conference slated for May 2-5 in Arizpe, Mexico.

Aside from electricity and the occasional vehicle, the village of Arizpe has changed little from the time when Anza was buried in the town's cathedral. As the capital of the Western provinces of the American southwest and most of the northwestern

Mexican states, Arizpe was a very important focal point along the frontier during the later part of the eighteenth century. Some of its former grandeur will reawaken this May as scores of people interested in the Anza story come to town.

The four-day program will take participants from Tucson, Arizona and trans-

(Continued page 3, Arizpe)

(Nogales, continued from page 1)

For years, school children from Nogales High School have used Las Lagunas as a tool to study riparian animal and plant communities. Although private property, the local landowner has allowed open access to those interested in exploring the marsh area and observing the abundant bird life. The marsh has become a crucial stopping off area for migrating birds as other water sources dwindle.

Tucson based hydrologist Philip Halpenny was one of the first to recognize the historical link between Las Lagunas and the Anza expedition. Initially drawn to the area by the water, he now sees it is a crucial junction, connecting the Mexican component of the Anza Trail with its American counterpart. Water was a constant need during the entire expedition and its scarcity nearly doomed the expedition as they crossed the desert. This is still true today for wetlands along the trail route.

Recently, the owner of Las Lagunas has started looking for a non-profit organization to help manage this important resource. He envisions setting the land aside as a preserve that will protect both the historic and natural components of the property. As the first Anza campsite on the north side of the border, the location holds special significance for the trail.



Hydrologist Philip Halpenny addressing a group in March as they discuss the future of Las Lagunas in Nogales.

As a year-round water source, the land also provides important wetlands for a community with few local water sources.

Excavations near the site have also shown clear evidence of an extended occupation by Native Americans. Work on an adjacent church and on nearby roads unearthed evidence that Indians have used the marsh area as a living site for centuries. As trail managers begin to interpret Las Lagunas, the role that Native Americans

played will be an important theme to explore.

Las Lagunas is an example of how the protection of natural areas and historical sites are often intertwined. It illustrates how the work of just a few determined individuals can be crucial in protecting an area. When local historian Lillian Hoff learned of the important role the wetlands have played both historically and environmentally from Philip Halpenny, she brought together a group of local concerned citizens to discuss the Anza Trail and the future of the wetlands.

Although the owner has not yet found a suitable non-profit to manage the site, the process to protect the area has started. Working with a consortium of local historians, educators, wildlife aficionados, and the National Park Service, a general consensus has grown to find the means to protect the property so that future generations can share in its historical and natural values.

Similar opportunities can spring up all along the Anza Trail. Trail users need to be on the lookout for possibilities as they avail themselves. As the Anza Trail continues to become more of a reality, finding ways to protect both the recreational trail and historical sites will continue to come from the local users - the very people who know the trail best. .

## Calabasas Pageant Celebrates Anza's Story much of the magnificent majesty of the

From Robin Mitchell

Rain or shine, the horses will be there and the actors present as Calabasas celebrates the 17th annual Anza in Calabasas Pageant Sunday, April 28, in Juan Bautista de Anza Park. With equestrians, music, dancers, and local actors, the Calabasas Anza Heritage Association will carry on the annual tradition for the public to experience the rich story of the Anza expedition and what it meant for California.

The pageant originally took place close to where historians believe Anza's original encampment existed. The Anza-Font diaries indicate that Anza chose his campsite very close to what is now the intersection of Lost Hills Road and Las Virgenes-Malibu Canyon Road in Malibu Creek State Park, Calabasas. In recent years, the pageant was moved up the road to Juan Bautista de Anza Park in Calabasas. The Park, fortunately, retains rural atmosphere of the Santa Monica Mountains that the Anza Expedition experienced.

This February 23, we commemorated Anza with Little Bear Bailey and his daughter Corey representing the original inhabitants of the region; Rattlin' Ralph and his guitar accompanying the exquisite Spanish Dancer, Ana Lupe Morado with her flamenco: and Ira Taborn as Bartolo Tapia, representing the youth on the expedition. They will be part of the cast at the Pageant, which will also feature equestrians under the direction of Stephanie Abronson as well as the Compton Junior Youth Posse under the direction of Mayisha Akbar. Artist Carlos Lacamara unveiled works depicting Anza as well as landscapes from early California Historyas well during the kick-off.

Anyone interested in advancing the histo-



Calabasas cast members celebrated in costume at a recent event in Anza Park. ry of California who would like to participate or attend the Pageant, please contact Robyn Mitchel or Rattlin' Ralph. If you wish to participate we start our preparations and rehearsals for those from out of town at 9:00 a.m., Sunday 28 April and we provide a lunch and perform at 2:00 p.m. The park is located at Juan Bautista de Anza Park, 3701 Lost Hills Road, Calabasas, California. For further information, contact Ralph Lee Moss a.k.a. Rattlin' Ralph at 818-882-4619 or Robin Mitchell, toll free at 1-888-327-5345.❖

## Art on the Trail





From the time when American Indians watched the passing of the Anza Expedition until present, art has been the tool for recording the themes behind the Trail. Whether as a conceptual piece by Chicano mural artist Frank Romero planned for the LA River (left) or a historical montage adorning the walls of Desert Shadows Middle School in Nogales (above), artists have used murals as a natural medium to tell the Anza story.

(Arizpe, continued from page 1)

port them south of the border for a broad picture of Anza's life. With visits to Anza's Presidio at Tubac and the *Misión de Cocóspere*, participants will arrive in Arizpe the night of the second to be greeted by the town's historian Carmen Pellat followed by dinner and live music.

The following day, participants will hear a number of presentations on Anza. Wilfred Martinez will share research concerning Anza's battles with Cuerno Verde; César Quijada will discuss the prehistoric paintings of *Cajón de Jiósari* while Maurice Bandy will discuss Fernando Rivera y Moncada's point of view of Anza. Many additional speakers will cover other aspects of Anza's career including his time at Tubac, the expedition to California, his time as governor, as well as the Anza route between Arizpe and Santa Fe.

On Saturday, the group will travel around the areas to attend a number of field trips. With a visit to the *compuerta* to see the nearly 300-year-old irrigation channels carved out of rock, a trip to Slick Rock Canyon where Anza escaped an Apache attack, and a visit to the cathedral, participants will then spend the evening dancing the night away in the town's central plaza. On Sunday, after a voluntary mass at the cathedral, the group will visit the archeological site Cajón de Jiósari as they slowly



Arizpe is located in a river valley along the Rio Sonora. The river has been the life blood to farmers and ranchers for over three centuries in this isolated village.

make their way back to Tucson.

Although registration officially closed April 1, there may still be a few spots available. To register for the conference, contact Gabby Cook at 520 398 2341, extension 23 or Don Garate at extension 25 as soon as possible.

The conference fee of \$350 will cover all expenses after arrival in Tucson, including transportation to Arizpe, room, meals and interpretation by the tour guides.

The fee structure only applies to those who will be using the van shuttle to Arizpe and room and board. If you are arriving from Mexico or planning on driving and camping, please call Don Garate to see what the charge will be.

One of the most important components of the World Conference comes in the cultural exchange that will take place each day as participants stay with volunteer families from around Arizpe. These encounters help build strong, lasting, international ties. ❖

# Off Road Vehicles Pose Threat to Hikers

Although they may have proved very useful at the time, the Anza Expedition did not have the benefit of off road motorcycles to carry them across the desert in 1775. The same is not necessarily true for those trying to navigate the trail today.

From Nogales to Atascadero, trail advocates today face the challenge of what to do when off highway vehicles (OHV) trespass onto recreational trails. Whether it is the resource damage that occurs to the trails themselves or the shattered tranquility and peace on a morning walk, motorcycles are providing a challenge to trail users.

#### Santa Cruz County, Arizona

On the southern end of the trail in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, Anza Trail Coalition county chair Mike Burns is seeing evidence of damage along the banks of the Santa Cruz River. In quads and All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), riders have taken to riding on the trail itself, in the river corridor, and along its banks. With strategic log placement, fencing, and access gates, Mike and other volunteers in the county coalition have been able to slow much of county.

In the southern county, one of the challenges is coming from the federal government. While patrolling the border near the Nogales sector, United States Border Patrol agents often use the trail corridor while tracking undocumented immigrants. People have used the trail since at least Anza's time for historic immigration and it continues to be a major north-south transportation route. Instead of Spanish subjects and soldados de cuera, the path is now used frequently both by undocumented aliens and by Border Patrol In the past few years, the Border Patrol in agents.

Although immigrants typically hike the trail, the Border Patrol uses quads to cover long distances of difficult desert terrain. Aside from the typical damage associated with motorized vehicles on hiking trails, horses are spooked when vehicles confront them, endangering both the animals and the riders.

The National Park Service is now working with the Border Patrol to increase their understanding of the damage OHVs cause With a liaison agent now attached from



Erosion and ruts from off road vehicle use are just some of the problems posed to the Anza Trail in Atascadero. Horses are often startled by motorcycles on hiking trails.

al users. During a recent meeting with agents out of the Nogales office, NPS staff discussed how agents should yield right of way and even switch off their engines when in close proximity to horses. the damage in the northern end of the Additionally, agents will reduce speed when patrolling the route in an effort to minimize trail damage. In the Nogales sector, the Border Patrol has a history of using horses to patrol the area and plans to continue to use them as an environmentally friendly alternative to ATVs.

> To control the problem, supervisory patrol agent Joe Adoni asked that anyone experiencing any problems with the Border Patrol and OHV use along the trail segment contact him at (520) 377-6000.

#### Imperial County, California

the California Deserts has become much more sensitive to the role it can play in helping to protect natural and archeological resources along the border. Along the Anza Trail between Calexico and Anza Borrego Desert State Park, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has created a joint training program with the Border Patrol to train agents in sensitivity to American Indian sites and to limit their four-wheel drive vehicles to established roads only.

and the impacts they have on recreation- the Border Patrol to the BLM office, arche-

ologists and site managers are seeing an increased level of protection. Bureau archeologist Margaret Hangan developed the training program over the years and is now reaping the benefits as resource damage continues to decrease. All new patrol agents to the area must attend the training and a portable version of the



Water district officer Jim Paterson shows the access gate that helps limit ATV traffic along a river trail segment.

# and Equestrians While Trail is Trampled

training is now available on *Power Point*. Agencies interested in using the training materials or learning more about the program should contact the El Centro BLM office.

#### San Luis Obispo County

On the northern end of the Anza Trail in Atascadero, California, equestrians and wildlife seekers are facing a more challenging dilemma. When trail builders had blazed the way for horses and hikers a few years ago and certified a five-mile stretch of the Anza trail, they were not prepared for the number of motorcycle enthusiasts who also began making use of the route. Strategically placed signs and attempts to limit motorcycle access have done little to eliminate the problem.





Trail managers along the Santa Cruz River in Tucson use a number of gates with a bar one foot off the ground to deter ATVs. Joggers with strollers are able to cross the bars with ease while ATVs and motorcycles must be carried over.

## From the Superintendent



By Meredith Kaplan

For the past quarter, I've either been on extended travel or medical leave, so much of the day-to-day business of administering the Anza Trail has been left to David Smith, including preparing the newsletter. He is doing a terrific job and has added immeasurably to our outreach efforts in the past year.

National Trails are intended to be non-motorized. Recreational segments of the Anza Trail are also supposed to be multiuse, non-motorized trails, but at a minimum they should accommodate hikers and equestrians. Motorcycles are strictly off-limits. Nonetheless as the article on off-road vehicle threats shows, there are illegal incursions of motorized vehicles along the trail.

The National Park Service can only enforce federal laws on land it owns. Since only five miles of the trail lie within the boundaries of existing national park sites, we are limited in our ability to address Off Road Vehicle (OHV) issues.

Aside from the trail components within the San Francisco Presidio and Tumacácori National Monument, the rest of the recreational trail is on land managed by numer-

ous local, state, and federal agencies as well as private landholders. Through agreements with existing federal agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service, rangers from all three agencies can conceivably enforce existing laws and regulations on another 100 miles of trail. The remaining 1100 miles of trail must be patrolled and protected by local authorities.

However, the National Park Service can use its connections with other agencies and local authorities to provide the moral support to help enforce local codes and regulations. The idea of a national trail is still a relatively new concept. Experience has shown that simply by discussing it with local authorities, support is often forthcoming in helping to protect trail resources.

Where the trail runs through state, county, and city parks, existing laws and regulations are often already in place to protect the trail. For example, in Tucson, existing county regulations allow local police and sheriff deputies to enforce a motorized vehicle ban along the Santa Cruz River.

With literally dozens of these sites along the trail, it becomes crucial for local trail users to communicate their concerns directly with local land managers and the NPS as soon as issues arise. In the end, local support and cooperation remain the critical tools in protecting the trail, but we will be as supportive as our mandate allows. ❖

The effects of the motorcycle use have meant multiple social trails crisscrossing the riparian landscape and rutted hiking routes. Horse riders feel threatened by the motorcycles as horses continue to be spooked by the loud noises as drivers race up the Salinas River. With multiple access points to the trail along the river, trail advocates continue to have a difficult time trying to limit motorcycle access to the river. City recreation planners and staff at the local water district have fenced certain areas and placed a series of metal bars along trail entrances to discourage off road vehicle activity.

This vigilance has paid off in the trail sections owned by the water district. With increased security patrols, there has been a marked decrease in OHV activity. Presently, the San Luis Obispo chapter of Amigos de Anza is meeting with local police officers to find ways that they can increase patrols and enforce the existing municipal codes prohibiting motorcycle use in these areas. Additionally, NPS staff is looking into new techniques other parks and forests have used to limit access to motorized vehicles.

As more and more recreational segments become certified in the next few years, the issue of off road vehicles on the trail will continue to be a subject that the Anza Trail will have to deal with. We hope trail managers can learn from the techniques used by others along the trail and from other National Trails to help eliminate this nuisance. \*

#### **News from Arizona**



By G. Donald Kucera President of the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona

Every year in March, Arizona celebrates archeology and history in a series of lectures and events throughout the state including the annual archaeological EXPO. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Arizona State Parks direct the EXPOs. This year Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, City of Coolidge, Coolidge Chamber of Commerce, and over 34 institutions, agencies and societies made this event a success. The EXPO brings attention to past and present cultures and archaeology to the public. Most people attending this event are unaware of who coordinates the EXPO. It is one person, Ms. Ann Howard of SHPO. She does this every year with great skill and it is hard to believe that this event could happen without her. All of us need to give her a big hug and thank her for the energy and interest she gives to make EXPO an event so important for Arizona.

The Pima County Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation released the Draft Master Plan for Pima County, Arizona Segment Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. McGann & Associates, Inc. of Tucson prepared it. There are 113 photomaps in the draft showing the proposed route for the trail. The County is presently reviewing the plan with governmental agencies for their comments and then will have a series of general meetings for public comment. They hope to have the plan formalized by June. As soon as we are informed of the public meetings we will contact ATCA members.

The official National Trails Day is June 1. ATCA is planning two historic walks in Tucson along the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT. Both walks will start at 8:00 a.m. The purpose of the walks is to learn about the Anza Expedition and the Tucson Presidio, stretch the muscles, and move the blood. The Tucson Presidio Trust for Historic Preservation will join the ATCA as a cosponsor and will be a part of the interpretation. The first walk is on Saturday, June 1, and will start at Congress Street and the west bank of the Santa Cruz River. We will walk to Speedway Boulevard – a distance of about 0.7 miles (1.1 km) or a

round trip of 1.4 (2.2 km). The second walk will be on Sunday, June 2, and will start on the north side of Irvington Road on the west bank of the Santa Cruz River along the El Paseo de los Arboles. There is parking on the south side of Irvington. We will walk to Ajo Way – a distance of one mile (1.6 km) or a little less than one half

legua one-way. Both of these events are wheel chair accessible. There are plans in the works to have a limited supply of free T-shirts (not guaranteed at this writing). Bring hats, sunscreen and water. To register for either or both of these historic walks, contact Don Kucera in Tucson at 520 792-0554.

#### **Connections on the Trail**



By David Smith

With about 200 responses and a dozen public meetings completed, we are nearing the half waypoint in the first phase of developing a long-range interpretive plan to help manage the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

With many more meetings to go, some trends are beginning to develop that will undoubtedly show up in the final plan. One of the clearest is that people are very excited about the potential for future cooperation with Mexico in building an international trail. This could manifest itself in cultural exchanges with Mexico, reaching out to Mexican Americans with more displays in Spanish and English, or the creation of an extended auto route or recreation trail that connects the two countries.

Trail users want more emphasis on recreational trail components along the trail, with the hope that they will all be linked into one continuous trail. The desire for a continuous recreation trail emerged during the preparation of the Comprehensive Management Plan and is part of the vision for the trail. Along the way, they want professionally created interpretive signs at the Anza campsites, at trailheads, and at historical sites. They would also like to see an increased emphasis on infrastructure such as restrooms and camping areas in appropriate places.

That being said, a number of respondents have emphasized the need to protect wilderness areas along the trail to give hikers a better idea of what the trail looked like during the expedition. Many see a connection between preserving the natural resource and the historical ones as well. Another theme concerns the role of the Anza Expedition and the *vaquero* or cowboy culture that was brought to California.

Along with that is the role that music played in the lives of these first settlers and among the vaqueros themselves. Whether it is in the form of traditional Spanish music or its folk component, music seems an important theme that merits attention as a way of connecting groups along the trail.

Repeatedly, users have stressed the need for increased publications to help them advertise the trail and what it has to offer. Requests have included a more comprehensive driving guide, detailed area maps that identify the trails hiking components, and translations in Spanish, Chinese, and Native American languages to serve different populations along the trail route.

By the end of June, I hope to meet in Arizona in Santa Cruz and Yuma Counties and in California in San Francisco, Alameda, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Riverside, and Imperial Counties. Although I will only be contacting a relatively limited number of people in these counties from our mailing list, if you would like to participate in the interpretive plan, please give me a call at 510 817 1323. Or, if you would prefer just writing down your comments and ideas, please think over the following questions and then send your written responses to me at David Smith c/o NPS-JUBA, 1111 Jackson #700, Oakland, CA 94607 or at david\_smith@nps.gov.

- 1. What about the Anza Trail story is meaningful to you? What topics most interest you?
- 2. What most excites you about this 1200-mile national historic trail?
- 3. What would a fully realized Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail look like? What would you find there? What would you experience? How would you get to it? How would you know where to find it?
- 4. What can we do to help you feel more connected to the trail experience and story?
- 5. Congress authorized the trail in 1990. The Comprehensive Management and Use Plan was completed in 1996. What has been your biggest frustration in trying to support the trail during that time?
- 6. Any other comments? \*



#### Juan Bautista de Anza en Calabasas Pageant

Sunday, April 28, 2002 Contact: Ralph Lee Moss 818-882-4619

#### Mission San Antonio de Padua

Sunday, April 28, 2002 New World Baroque Orchestra Performs with chorale ensemble and

traditional dance. Contact:805-239-3022

#### **Anza World Conference**

May 2, 2002 Anza sites tour at Tubac and Tumacacori Contact Don Garate, 520-398-2341

May 3-5, 2002 Meetings in Arizpe, Sonora, Mexico

#### Second Annual Anza Trail Run

May 5, 2002 at San Juan Bautista, California. Contact: Jim Sleznick 831-623-2694

#### Tubac and Tumacacori 2002: Special Events related to The Anza Trail

April 28, Sunday, High Mass at the Mission at Tumacacori

July 7, Sunday, Celebration of the birthday of Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza (1736)

August 18, Sunday, Celebration of Tubac garrison moving to Tucson (1776)

September 17, Tuesday, Celebration of Anza Expedition arriving at the "Golden Gate"

October 11-13, Friday to Sunday, Gran Quivira Conference (Tubac SHP and Tumacacori NHP).

October 12-14, Saturday to Monday, Anza Days 2002

October 13, Sunday, high mass at Tumacacori NHP on October 13

December 7-8, Saturday and Sunday, Fiesta de Tumacacori

Tubac contact number: 520-398-2252

Tumacacori NHP contact number: 520-398-2341

#### **Tucson National Trails Day Hikes**

June 1, Saturday, 8 a.m., Hike along Anza Trail beginning at Congress Street on Santa Cruz River June 2, Sunday, 8 a.m., Hike along Anza Trail beginning at Irving Road on Santa Cruz River.

Contact: G. Donald Kucera, 520-792-0554 for registration.

#### **National Trails Symposium**

November 10-13. Contact Pam Gluck at 520-632-1140 for more information.

#### In Memoriam

This January, the Anza Trail community lost one of its biggest proponents and founders with the passing of Helen Shropshire. First active in celebrating the bicentennial of the Monterey Presidio, she went on to be a crucial link and organizer during the bicentennial re-enactment in 1976. During her memorial, long time friend Winston Elstob spoke about one of the highlights of her life.

"But it was in Mexico City where she had her proudest moment in her life, as she often remembered. It happened when she rode down the Reforma, one of Mexico's largest thoroughfares, in a procession with a large contingent of costumed riders and coaches, which then made their way into the Zocalo, a huge square that contains the Government buildings. A full orchestra was in place, along with the mayor and other dignitaries. The square was festooned with television cables. Helen, with her horse, stood still, as they played our national anthem, her heart swelling with pride as she shared our historical California connection with the Mexican people."

# Images On the Anza Trail - Picacho Peak, Arizona



A beacon to travelers for centuries, Picacho also guided the Anza Expedition. While camping near it on October 29, 1775, father Garces wrote "We..halted near a picacho which the Indians call the Cerro de Tacca...the señor comandante resolved ...that all persons should behave in such manner that the gentiles should be set no bad example by the Españoles." Today, the site is a haven for snowbirds and hikers as an Arizona State Park.

**Noticias de Anza** is a quarterly newsletter of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail published by the National Park Service. Articles relevant to the trail's history, culture, and recreational use are welcome. The editor is Meredith Kaplan, Superintendent of the trail.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

# Noticias de Anza

The Newsletter of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

A Millennium Trail

National Park Service

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Oakland, California 94607

Attention: Meredith Kaplan



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